

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4585

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5726

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV BRIEFING ON SITUATION IN ANGOLA

1. IN OCT 29 DISCUSSION WITH DCM ABOUT ANGOLA, FSFA CHIEF OF SUB-SAHARAN DEPARTMENT DUSAN MARINKOVIC STATED THAT PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES INFORMED YUGOSLAVS PORTUGUESE DEFINITELY PLAN TO PULL OUT OF ANGOLA ON NOV 11, ALTHOUGH GOP IS PREOCCUPIED WITH CONCERN ABOUT WHAT MAY ENSUE. PORTUGUESE ARE TRYING TO BRING THREE ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TOGETHER AT A CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE IN NEXT DAYS, IN EFFORT TO GET THEM TO AGREE TO TERMS FOR HANDOVER OF POWER. MARINKOVIC SAID GOP IS NOW CONSULTING WITH THREE GROUPS. IF THERE IS AGREEMENT ON HOLDING CONFERENCE, EACH LIBERATION MOVEMENT WOULD INVITE THREE AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO BE PRESENT AT CONFERENCE.

2. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ABOUT YUGOSLAV SUPPORT FOR MPLA, MARINKOVIC STATED GOY BEGAN GIVING IT UNLIMITED MATERIAL SUPPORT BEFORE OTHER ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WERE FORMED, WHEN MPLA WAS SOLE ANGOLAN GROUP FIGHTING PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM, AND
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MADE NO SECRET OF ITS SUPPORT. GOY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT

MPLA, WHOSE POLICIES COINCIDE WITH ITS OWN (E.G., NON-ALIGNMENT), BUT NO LONGER HELPS IT "IN EVERY MATERIAL WAY". HE ADDED THAT GOY HAS HAD SOME CONTACT WITH UNITA AND FNLA. MARINKOVIC SAID ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE SHOULD BE RESPECTED WHEN IT IS GRANTED ON NOV 11, AND ANGOLANS SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. HE HOPED THEY COULD SETTLE THEIR AFFAIRS WITHOUT FIGHTING, BUT SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE WAS PESSIMISTIC; HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT IF ANY OF THE MOVEMENTS PROCLAIMED UDI, CIVIL WAR COULD RESULT. MARINKOVIC WELCOMED THE SECRETARY'S HELPFUL STATEMENTS ON ANGOLA TO AFRICAN UN REPRESENTATIVES LAST MONTH.

3. IN DISCUSSION AMBASSADOR HAD WITH ASSISTANT FOREIGN SECRETARY (EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA) MILICEVIC ON NUMBER OF ISSUES, LATTER SAID MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING COSTA GOMEZ VISIT WAS ANGOLA. MILICEVIC ALSO SOUNDED NON-INTERFERENCE HORN. HE SAID GOY HAD MATERIALLY SUPPORTED MPLA BUT CLAIMED THAT IT IS NOT DOING SO ANYMORE BECAUSE OF OAU RESOLUTION (WE RESERVE JUDGMENT). HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ANGOLA AS POTENTIALLY RICH AND STRATEGICALLY LOCATED COUNTRY AND SEEMED MORE INTERESTED FOR THE MOMENT IN ANGOLA THAN PORTUGAL PROPER. SILBERMAN

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